

Liberty, Jim Reed

Sold, Is the

Right to Be Wrong

"Lake Charles, La., Feb. 20 (AP) — Supporters of a victorious candidate in yesterday's Calcasieu parish (county) sheriff's race swarmed around a newspaper building and yelled epithets and tossed papers through open doors and windows."

Police broke up the mob but—significantly—without making any arrests.

You know about Lake Charles. Parish officials resenting a drive against open gambling have taken the owners and executives of the daily American Press into court on charges of criminal libel. Meanwhile the old sheriff, Henry (Ham) Reid, was up for re-election last Tuesday. The newspaper supported John Flanders—but Reid won, 19,000 to 16,201.

Getting back to the court case against the newspaper folks, on which testimony has been heard and the decision taken under advisement—the curious feature is in charge of "criminal libel." All we know in democratic America is civil libel—civil damages claimed against the property of a newspaper or magazine because on an alleged defamatory statement which hurts an individual in his private calling.

But "criminal libel" speaks of jail, and, originating with public officials, it smells of "libel against the state"—which means that one small corner of Louisiana is attempting to revive Hitler's and Stalin's formula that criticism of an office-holder is a political crime. There are no "political crimes" in this republic. No citizen is answerable for his person unless he involves himself with another citizen, by murder, attack, robbery, embezzlement, and the others that we commonly recognize as "crimes."

The right to criticize government in general and office-holders, in particular is an inalienable right—and talk of "criminal libel" is nonsense.

The late U. S. Senator Jim Reed of Missouri said:

"Liberty is the right to be wrong."

Newspaper editors aren't always right.

Neither are the people.

Down in Lake Charles' parish 19,000 are "right" and 16,000 are "wrong"—today that is. But how will they feel come another election? And how will they be able to change their decision if public debate is permissible only under threat of a jail sentence?

If Louisiana's quaint notion of "criminal libel," followed up by street mobs at a newspaper's door, were to become the new law of these free United States then we might as well call off the 1952 presidential election and tell Harry Truman the White House is his for keeps.

I don't give Louisiana much charity in this matter. Lake Charles is not an isolated case. Not so many years ago the people of Louisiana supported the late Huey Long and the entire state government in a flagrant attempt to put out of business such newspapers as were criticizing the "Kingfish." And it's not to the credit of Louisiana law and order and justice that the whole people of that commonwealth had finally to be reminded by the federal courts that they, too, belong to the United States—not some corner of the Balkans.

## Louisiana to Dismiss 15 State Officers

Baton Rouge, La., Feb. 23 (AP) — Dismissal of 12 to 15 state troopers was an economy measure and not political revenge, says Superintendent E. P. Roy of the Louisiana State Police.

One of the dismissed troopers, David Wallace Chennault, charged he had been fired because he refused to contribute to the political campaign of Judge Carlos Spahat, Gov. Earl Long's unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate.

"That is ridiculous," Roy retorted yesterday. "Just a statement from a sorehead."

No man on the force was asked to kick in. A man might have been asked to volunteer some funds, and some of those dismissed, I'm sure, did contribute to Judge Spahat's campaign."

Chennault, 28-year-old son of Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault (ret) of Flying Tiger fame, had asserted in Monroe that he was fired because he refused to ante up \$50 for Gov. Long's candidate.

Gov. gave this reason for the firings:

"We're just simply living within our appropriation for the remainder of the administration."

## Pleads Guilty on Liquor Violation

Harry Tatum, negro who lives on the Beard's Lake road, pleaded guilty to possession of moonshine liquor before Justice of Peace Roy McElroy at Saratoga Thursday and was fined \$50 and cost. He was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Alton Starns.

# Hope Star

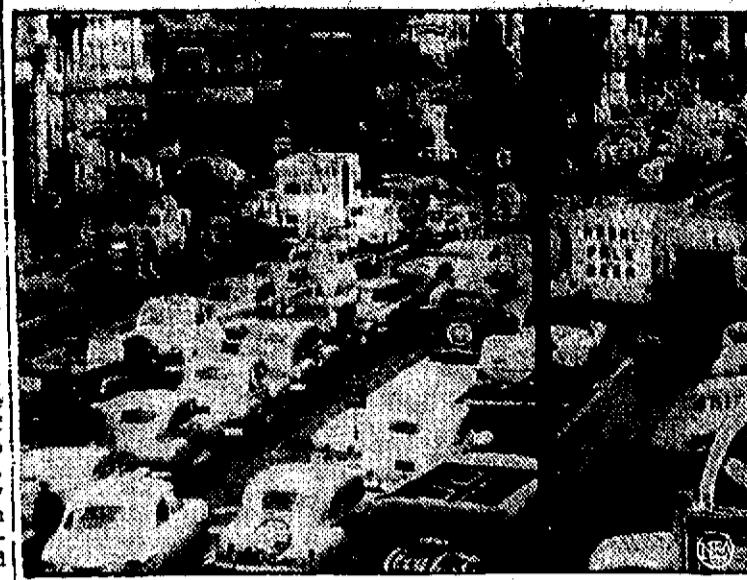
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WORLD'S LARGEST — San Francisco's busiest thoroughfare, Market Street, is regarded as the world's largest parking lot as motorists ignore police orders and park foul and illegally down the center of the street. This traffic jam occurred at the Kearny Street intersection. The confusion was brought about by the strike of transportation workers. The Mayor is seeking an injunction against the A. F. of L. car men who, the Mayor says, are rebelling against the public. (NEA Telephoto)



SHADES OF BYGONE DAYS — George Washington's birthday sales were again the rule in Washington, D. C., as shops and stores featured "sensational" bargains of all kinds. One shop offered five typewriters for sale at a price of 99¢ each, and prospective buyers brought their bedding and spent the night in the doorway of the shop. (NEA Telephoto)

## Lists Junior High Honor Roll Students

Twelve students earned places on the first semester "A" honor roll, and eleven earned places on the second nine weeks "A" honor roll for Hope Junior High School, as announced by Mrs. Frank Mason, principal.

To be on an "A" honor roll a student must make "A" in each academic subject and must retain a minimum of 90 honor points.

On the semester "A" honor roll are:

Seventh grade: Charles Tittle, Sue Cook, Janelle Warren.

Eighth grade: Alice Anthony, Linda Moore, Wayne Johnson, Pat McGill, Dale Zinn, William Perkins, Bill Bridges, Marian McQueen, and Janet McKenzie.

On the nine weeks' "A" roll are:

7th grade: Charles Tittle, Sue Cook, Janelle Warren, and Mary Charlene Horton.

8th grade: Alice Anthony, Linda Moore, Wayne Johnson, Pat McGill, Dale Zinn, William Perkins, and Janet McKenzie.

Students on the semester Merit Roll are:

7th grade: Emma Tollett, Mary Jo Rogers, Bonnie Tullis, Toni Thompson, Billy Tooley, Ernest Whitten, Jerry Wilson, Charles Ruggles, Marcia Lee Bowden, Dorsey Askew, Gary Baber, Orval Brannan, Audrey Sue Bright.

Union and employer groups met again in Little Rock Friday night, but no announcement of any progress was made.

Ralph Beachem, superintendent of construction, said Friday, however, that chances for ending the strike "look better."

In Paragould, representatives of the AFL United Garment Workers Union met Friday with officials of the Ely & Walker Co.'s shirt factory in an attempt to settle a sit down strike in the sewing department.

About 80 workers have refused to work in protest of piece rates paid for handling rayon fabrics. They contend the rates do not earn them as much money as rates paid for handling cotton. The strike began Tuesday.

Production in other parts of the plant has continued, but a factory spokesman said the plant may be forced to close unless a settlement is reached soon.

## Compromise Offered to End Strike

By The Associated Press

A compromise proposal designed to settle a four-day walkout at a new aluminum plant in Bauxite, Ark., has been offered to the striking AFL Roofers and Waterproofers Union.

Henry H. Ketcher Jr., of the Ketcher Roofing Co., Little Rock, one of 24 sub-contractors on the job, said Friday night that he had offered to hire three union workers in an attempt to end the dispute. The strike has halted construction work on the Aluminum Ore Co.'s plant.

The strike began last Tuesday when the roofers threw a picket line still failed to report for work.

Judge Maner said an investigation revealed that while there was no picket line at the plant, workers were stopped en route to the project and told that the "strike is still on." He also said a sign reading, "Ketcher is unfair," was attached to the plant gates Thursday morning.

The U. S. Navy disclosed belatedly that two American destroyers and a New Zealand patrol frigate sank 15 out of 20 Communist invasion sampans during the 34-hour battle Wednesday and Thursday for Yang Island off Songlin, 150 miles down the Korean east coast from the Soviet frontier.

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## McCaskill Church Has New Building

McCaskill Assembly of God church is moving to its new location a mile north on Highway 24.

The new building is expected to be completed by late spring. Church members and the pastor, the Rev.

J. W. Bobo, expressed appreciation to Hope firms for contributions.

Toy industries in Germany and Japan are on the winning team.

## U. S. Plane Loss in Korea Is Heavy at 1,153

TOKYO, Feb. 23 (UPI) — The United Nations have lost 1,153 planes in Korea while destroying 1,860 Communist aircraft, a tabulation of officials' figures showed today.

All but 15 of the Allied planes lost were American.

The aerial scoreboard for the Korean war was totalled up as action both on the ground and in the air slumped to one of the lowest levels of the war.

A brief 8th Army communiqué reported only "light patrol" contact along the 145-mile ground front. Patrolling American Sabre jets reported Communist MIG-15 jet fighters stayed on their side of the Yalu river Manchurian frontier.

Official reports broke down allied aerial losses war-long this way:

U. S. Navy, including shore-based Marines—854 planes.

U. S. Air Force—484 planes.

None U. S. United Nations units—15 planes.

Fewer than half the planes lost by the U. S. Navy were shot down by the enemy, however. Of the 854 total, 361 were listed as "operational losses." These included planes which crashed in hazardous landings on aircraft carriers.

In the Air Force, 58 planes were lost in dogfights, 395 were shot down by Communist ground fire and 31 were lost to other causes.

The combat losses comprised 184 jet planes and 250 propeller-driven aircraft.

Far East Air Force headquarters said Communist losses well may be above the 360 officially listed. It pointed out that many of the 102 enemy planes listed as probably destroyed and 446 damaged well may have crashed before they reached their home bases.

Of those definitely destroyed, 225 were Russian-built MIG-jets. The Air Force also listed 58 MIGs as probably destroyed and 394 as damaged.

Communist casualties included 10 MIGs destroyed, one probably destroyed and nine damaged during the past seven days. The Allies lost 10 planes during the week, half to Communist ground fire and the rest to undetermined causes.

U. S. planes during the past week also destroyed or damaged 613 Communist vehicles, 14 locomotives, 100 railway cars, nine tunnels, 17 bridges, 103 buildings and two tanks.

In Korea, the 8th Army announced that its forces had killed 1,404 enemy soldiers, wounded 1,445 and captured 30 during the week ended Feb. 14—a total of 2,979, nearly twice that of the previous week.

The U. S. Navy disclosed belatedly that two American destroyers and a New Zealand patrol frigate sank 15 out of 20 Communist invasion sampans during the 34-hour battle Wednesday and Thursday for Yang Island off Songlin, 150 miles down the Korean east coast from the Soviet frontier.

Regulations and tradition were checked as fully before MacArthur left Tokyo for the April 14th.

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## Junior Play Has Comedy Specialty Acts

"Whiz Kids," Junior class play, will be staged in the school auditorium on March 7.

The play is packed with comedy including two blackface characters played by Darryl Messer and Neil Cassidy. Intermission specialties include:

Dance chorus — Pat Bearden, Anna Lou Barnes, Freida Scoggins, Lynn Russell, Peggy Starner, Mary Jo Fluehner, Betty Saunders and Bonnie Shirley.

Boys quintet — Richard Chism, Bert Chamberlain, John Keck, Donald Richards and John Gilbert.

Panmunjom, Korea, Feb. 23 (UPI) — Communist negotiators yielded to the Allies on troop rotation today, but injected a new issue into the truce talks with a bitter protest against the "massacre" of 69 Reds in the Koje Internment camp.

The break in the troop rotation deadlock came in staff officer talks on supervision of a truce.

The Reds bowed to United Nations demands for rotation of at least 35,000 troops a month during a truce after refusing for more than a week to go above 30,000.

The agreement removed one more obstacle to an armistice, but the Communist "massacre" protest in staff officer talks on prisons threatened now delays.

Communist Col. Tsai Chen Wen lodged what he called a "serious protest" against the killing of 69 Communist civilian internees and wounding of 142 others by American security forces in a riot in a camp on Koje Island Monday.

The Red internees, armed with clubs and knives, killed one American soldier and wounded 23 others before U. S. troops restored order.

Tsai said the American troops had "barbarously massacred" the civilian internees. He demanded a "clear account for the slaughter."

In Washington, the Army said the staff reductions had been made in line with treatment accorded to other five-star generals who—like MacArthur—were not assigned to any specific duty.

The Army said regulations provide an eight-man staff for five-star officers in specific military assignments. It added an arrangement for the personnel cut was made last fall with MacArthur, who was ousted from his Far East post by President Truman in April.

Precedent for the three-man staff for unassigned generals, the Army said, was set after World War II.

President Truman was reported to have decided that such a staff would be sufficient to look after any official business remaining for the rest to undetermined causes.

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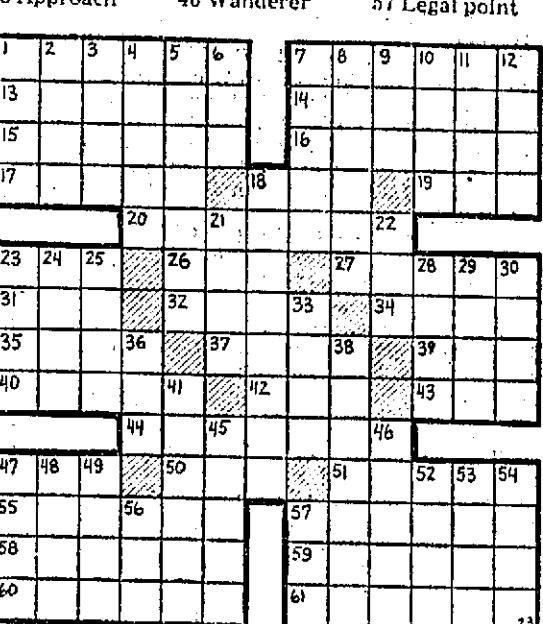
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2-23  
Weapon Whirl

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

HORIZONTAL	
1 Short firearm	5 Belgian
7 Long firearms	6 Southern
13 Indolent	7 general
14 Bright bird	8 Pressed
15 Narrate	9 Evergreen
16 Porous	10 Card game
17 Eat away	(pl.)
18 Low haunt	11 Lohengrin's
19 Tree fluid	12 Percolate
20 Scoffed	13 Mineral spring
22 Persian gateway	14 Bright bird
27 Depressions	15 Narrate
31 Gibbon	16 Porous
32 Ages	17 Eat away
34 Cudgel	18 Low haunt
35 Dismounted	19 Tree fluid
37 Row	20 Scoffed
39 Some weapons	21 Nobleman
— of a cutting nature	22 Socialite
40 Diadem	23 Hawaiian
42 Gypsy book	24 Precipice
43 Ribbed fabric	25 Operative solo
44 Pullman	26 Approach
47 Japanese outcast	
50 Small child	
51 Acted abstractedly	
55 Leasee	
57 Venerate	
58 Hospital resident doctor	
59 Potency	
60 Levy	
61 Emphasis	
VERTICAL	
1 Minute skin opening	1 Weight deduction
2 Passage in the brain	2 Shred
3 Farm building	3 Simple substance
4 Leaping amphibians	4 Changes
	5 Merits
	6 Wanderer
	7 Legal point



## OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



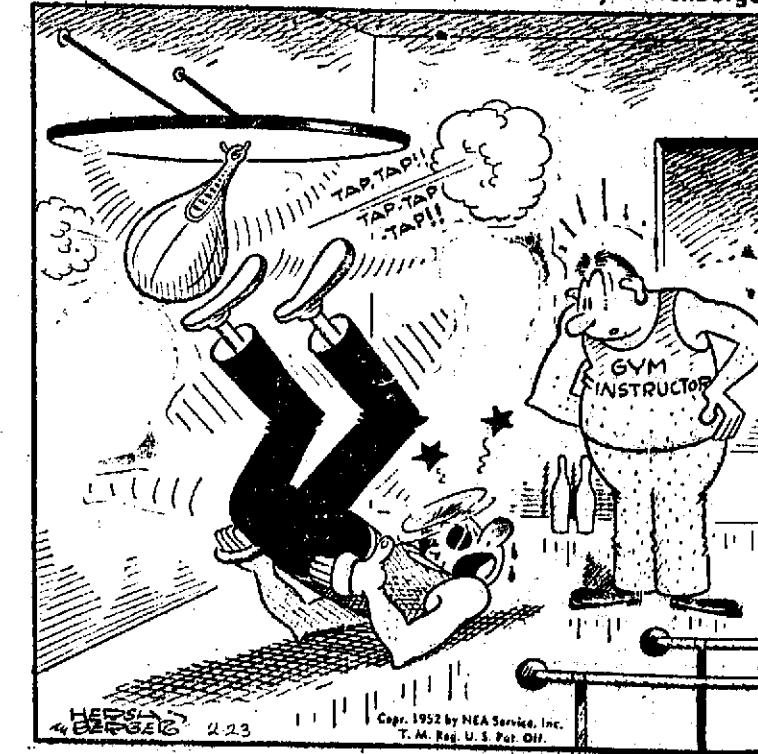
## OUR BOARDING HOUSE

## With Major Hoople



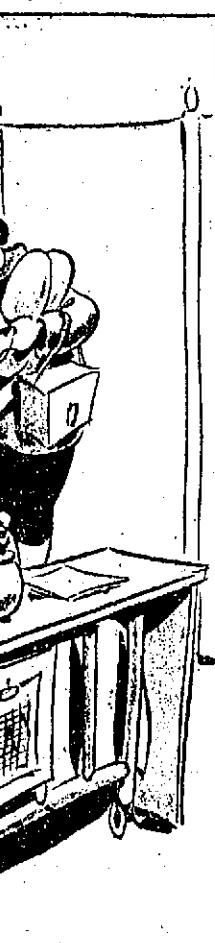
## FUNNY BUSINESS

By Hershberger



## CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"Darling! Your insurance is the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me!"

## SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



## FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

By Blosser



"It'll be a tough election for us--now that Ike's in the race, the boss insists 'Eisenhower' would be more dignified in the headlines."



## VIC FLINT

By Michael O'Malley and Ralph La



AND NOW HE'S DEAD! I'LL CALL INSPECTOR GROW IN HOMICIDE.



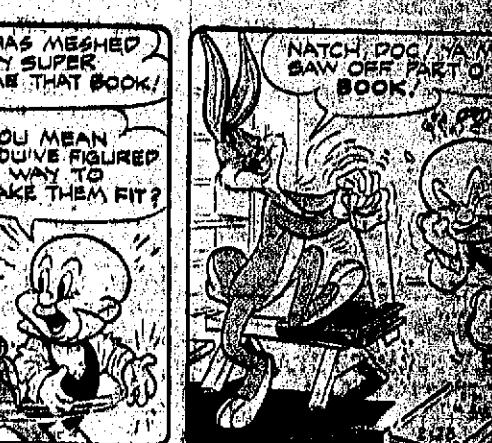
## WASH TUBBS



## BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



## BUGS BUNNY



## ALLEY OOP



## CHRIS WELKIN, Planeteer



## HENRY



